



# AFRO-AMERICAN HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Richard B. Dickenson Staten Island Chapter

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 20, 2018**

**NEWLY FORMED STATEN ISLAND CHAPTER OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (AAHGS) NAMED IN HONOR OF THE LATE STATEN ISLAND BOROUGH HISTORIAN, RICHARD B. DICKENSON**

**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018**

**STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK** -- An installation of the officers of the newly formed Staten Island Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) named in honor of the late Staten Island Borough Historian, Richard B. Dickenson will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at The Staten Island Museum. Founded in 1977, AAHGS is a national organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. with 34 chapters across the nation. AAHGS strives to preserve African-ancestored family history, genealogy, and cultural diversity by teaching research techniques and disseminating information.

"It's great to bring the AAHGS to Staten Island. Until now those interested in African-American Genealogy would have to participate in the New York City Chapter or the New Jersey Chapter. With the number of people interested in genealogy growing, we should have a local group," said Robin Semple, Co-President, Professional Genealogist, who holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University.

Today, there are more than 7 million subscribers to Ancestry.com and many more people are actively searching to discover their family origins. While online applications have expanded interest and advanced the field, most people still need to work with others sharing ideas, techniques and information. Along with founding members, Susan I. Wright, Secretary, Charlette Mimiasie, Treasurer, Leslie W. Stewart III, Johnneatha I. Campos, Dawn Fleming, Deborah Taylor, Ernest Paige, and Gabriella Perallon, the chapter will provide a monthly forum for people who are just beginning to research their family histories as well as those who have already gathered information going back many generations.

"We want to help others find the answers to their past. Knowing your family history is an empowering journey no matter what you discover along the way," said Debbie-Ann Paige, Historian, Professional Genealogist, Instructor of History and Co-President of the AAHGS.

Starting in March 2018, the AAHGS will meet on the third Saturday of every month excluding the summer months.

For more information about the Richard B. Dickenson Chapter of the AAHGS email [sinyaahgs@gmail.com](mailto:sinyaahgs@gmail.com) or call (347) 962-9233.

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